

**CLAIMS:**

- Sub B1*
- Sub a1*
1. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article comprising:
- (a) an absorbent body having a front waist portion, a back waist portion, a crotch portion and a pair of spaced apart leg openings;
  - (b) an absorbent core member;
  - (c) means for fastening said absorbent body to the body of the wearer; and
  - (d) *at least one* ~~an~~ elasticized barrier layer overlying <sup>a</sup> portion of said absorbent core member and secured to said absorbent body thereby defining *at least one* a retaining enclosure for retaining body exudates, between said barrier layer and said portion of absorbent core member.
2. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article as in claim 1 wherein said elasticized barrier layer comprises barrier segments, each segment being secured to said absorbent body to form a retaining enclosure between each barrier layer segment and portion of said absorbent core member.
- Sub a2*
3. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article comprising:
- (a) an absorbent body having a front waist portion, a back waist portion, a crotch portion and a pair of spaced apart leg openings;

(b) an absorbent core member having a liquid pervious top layer facing the body of the wearer, a liquid impervious back layer substantially coextensive with said liquid pervious layer, and a liquid absorbent layer disposed between said top layer and said back layer;

(c) means for fastening said absorbent body to the body of the wearer, and

(d) *at least one* an elasticized barrier layer overlying <sup>a</sup> portion of said absorbent core member and secured to said absorbent body thereby defining a retaining enclosure between said barrier layer and said core member. *at least one*

4. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article as in claim 3 wherein said elasticized barrier layer comprises barrier segments, each segment being secured to said absorbent body to form a retaining enclosure between each barrier layer segment and portion of said absorbent core member.

5. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article as in claim 2 wherein each segment of said overlying barrier layer comprises an inner elasticized edge and wherein each pair of elastic edges cross near the leg opening to form a dual protection region.

6. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article as in claim 4 wherein each segment of said overlying barrier layer comprises an inner elasticized edge and wherein each pair of elastic edges cross near the leg opening for form a dual protection region.

7. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article comprising:

(a) an absorbent body having a front waist portion, a back waist portion, a crotch portion and a pair of spaced apart leg openings;

(b) an absorbent core member having a liquid pervious top layer facing the body of the wearer, a liquid impervious back layer substantially coextensive with said liquid pervious layer, and a liquid absorbent layer disposed between said top layer and said back layer;

(c) means for fastening said absorbent body to the body of the wearer, and

(d) elasticized barrier layer overlying portion of said core members, said barrier layer comprising a front left segment, a front right segment, a rear left segment and a rear right segment, each of said segments being secured to said absorbent body and defining a retaining enclosure between a portion of said absorbent core and its respective overlying barrier segment.

8. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article comprising:
- (a) an absorbent body having a front waist portion, a back waist portion, a crotch portion and a pair of spaced apart leg openings;
  - (b) an absorbent core member comprising a liquid pervious top layer facing the body of the wearer, a liquid impervious back layer substantially coextensive with said top layer and an absorbent layer disposed between said top layer and said bottom layer;
  - (c) means for fastening said absorbent body to the body of the wearer, and
  - (d) an elasticized barrier layer overlying said absorbent core member, said barrier layer comprising a first segment and a second segment, said first segment having a generally arch-shaped configuration and second said segment having a generally inverse opposed arch-shape configuration, said first segment and said second segment having elasticized inner edges wherein said elasticized edges are secured to said absorbent core member at opposed side edges of said core member and wherein each of said arch-shaped segments defines a retaining enclosure between said arch-shaped segment and its underlying absorbent core portion.

9. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article as in claim 8  
wherein pairs of said elasticized edges cross each other at the leg openings thereby  
defining a region of double protection against leakage of body exudates.

10. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article comprising:  
(a) an absorbent body having a front waist portion, a back waist  
portion, a crotch portion and a pair of spaced apart leg openings;

(b) an absorbent core member;  
(c) means for fastening the absorbent article to the body of the  
wearer, and  
(d) an elasticized first barrier layer segment overlying said absorbent  
core member at one side of the longitudinal axis of said core member, and an  
elasticized second barrier layer segment overlying said absorbent core member at the  
opposite side of said first barrier layer segment, said first barrier layer segment having a  
generally concave-shaped elasticized edge, and said second barrier layer segment  
having a generally concave-shaped elasticized edge, wherein said elasticized edges  
together define a generally oval-shaped opening, and wherein said first barrier layer  
segment defines a first retaining enclosure between said first barrier layer segment and  
its underlying portion of said absorbent core member, and said second barrier layer

segment defines a retaining enclosure between said second barrier layer segment and its underlying portion of said absorbent core member.

11. An integral disposable absorbent article as in claim 10 wherein said elasticized edges cross each other at each leg opening region thereby defining regions of double protection against leakage of body exudates.

12. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article comprising:

- (a) an absorbent body having a front waist portion, a back waist portion, a crotch portion and a pair of spaced apart leg openings;
- (b) means for fastening the absorbent body to the body of the wearer;
- (c) an absorbent core member; and
- (d) a first barrier layer segment overlying said absorbent core member at one side of the longitudinal axis of said core member, and a second barrier layer segment overlying said absorbent core member at the opposite side of said first barrier layer segment, said first barrier layer segment having a generally concave shaped elasticized edge, and said second barrier layer segment having a generally concave-shaped elasticized edge, wherein said elasticized edges together define a generally oval shaped opening, and wherein said first barrier layer segment define a first retaining enclosure between said first barrier layer segment and its underlying portion

of said absorbent core member, and said second barrier layer segment defines a second retaining enclosure between said second barrier layer segment and its underlying portion of said absorbent core member.

13. An integral elasticized absorbent article comprising:

- (a) an absorbent body having a front waist portion, a back waist portion, a crotch portion and a pair of spaced apart leg openings;
  - (b) an absorbent core member;
  - (c) means for fastening said absorbent body to the body of the wearer;
- and
- (d) a first barrier layer segment to one side of the longitudinal axis of said body said barrier layer segment having an inner elasticized edge extending diagonally from a point at the lateral side of said body to a point on the longitudinal side of said body, a second barrier layer segment on the opposite side relative to said first barrier layer segment, and having an inner elasticized edge extending from a point at the lateral side of said body to a point on the opposing longitudinal side of said body, wherein said first barrier layer segment and said second barrier layer segment each form a retaining enclosure with its underlying portion of said absorbent core.

14. An integral elasticized absorbent article comprising:

- (a) an absorbent body having a front waist portion, a back waist portion, a crotch portion and a pair of spaced apart leg openings;
- (b) an absorbent core member;
- (c) means for fastening said absorbent body to the body of the wearer;

and

(d) a unitary barrier layer secured to said body and having generally arch-shaped elasticized inner edge having two ends, a first end secured to said absorbent body at one side thereof and second end secured to said body at the opposite side thereof such that said unitary barrier layer defines a retaining enclosure between said barrier layer and said absorbent core member.

15. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article comprising:

- (a) an absorbent body having a front waist portion, a back waist portion, a crotch portion and a pair of spaced apart leg openings;
- (b) means for fastening the absorbent body to the body of the wearer;
- (c) an absorbent core member; and
- (d) a first barrier layer segment overlying said absorbent core member on one side of the longitudinal axis of said body and a second barrier layer segment overlying said absorbent core member on the opposed side of said first barrier layer



segment said first barrier layer segment having a generally concave-shaped inner elasticized edge and said second barrier layer segment having an opposed generally concave-shaped elasticized edge, wherein said elasticized edges define a generally oval-shaped absorbent region, and wherein each of said first and second barrier layer segments define a retaining enclosure with its respective underlying portion of said absorbent core member.

16. An integral disposable elasticized absorbent article as in claim 15 wherein said barrier layer segments span substantially the length of said absorbent core member.

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